



## Germany: Facts & Figures July 2006

*A monthly overview of current opinion data and statistical information in the Federal Republic of Germany*

### Politics

If Bundestag elections had been held on July 30, the CDU/CSU would have received 33% of the vote, the SPD 31%, the Green Party 9%, the FDP 11%, the PDS (with WASG) 10%, and all other parties combined 5%. (forsa. 07/28/06)

Top managers are losing their confidence in Chancellor Merkel. In July, 57% considered Merkel a good leader (down from 77% in March) and 31% a weak chancellor (up from March: 7%). (Allensbach. Die Welt, 07/20/06).

### Economy

The jobless rate remained steady at 10.5%. 4,386 million people were out of work, 12,000 fewer than in June. For the first time since unification, the jobless figure fell in June. Compared with the figures from the same period last year, 451,000 fewer people were out of work. (Labor Exchange. Major papers, 08/01/06)

Investor outlook has worsened for the sixth straight month amid concerns about soaring oil prices, a strong euro, and the impact of the increase in the VAT. The index, measuring economic expectations for the coming six months, fell to 15.1 points from 37.8 in June. (ZEW. Major papers, 07/19/06)

The German economy will experience a 1.8% annual growth rate in 2006. This will be the highest growth rate in six years, and is due to higher domestic demand and increased exports. A slowdown to 1.4%, however, is expected for FY 2007. (DIW Economic Institute. Major papers, 07/05/06)

75% of German companies have become victims of white collar crime. Damage to the national economy is estimated to amount to 4.2 billion dollars. (KPMG. Major papers, 07/05/06)

### Society

Mainstream parties continue to lose members. In June 2006, the CDU had 565,709 members (- 4,000 from June 2005), and the SPD 573,799 (-13,000). The FDP attracted 500 new members and now has 65,000 members. (Handelsblatt, 07/17/06)

Sueddeutsche Zeitung has more than 1.54 million readers (up 180,000 from the same time last year), FAZ 860,000 (down 50,000), Die Welt 710,000 (up 90,000), Frankfurter Rundschau 490,000 (down 40,000), Handelsblatt 330,000 (down 40,000) and Financial Times Deutschland 210,000 (down 50,000). (Allensbach. Sueddeutsche, 07/17/06).

51% of resident Muslims in Germany view most (22%) or many (29%) Europeans as hostile towards Muslims and 19% have had a bad personal experience. 34% of Germans call immigration from the Middle East and North Africa a good thing compared with 59% who deem it a bad thing. 42% of Muslims in Germany consider immigration from the Middle East and North Africa a good thing compared with 46% who label it a bad thing. 76% of the German public and 70% of German Muslims believe Muslims coming into the country today want to remain distinct from the larger society. 84% of the German public sees Muslims as having a strong Islamic identity, but only 46% of Muslims living in Germany agree. 66% of German Muslims consider themselves Muslims first, Germans second. This figure is comparable to those in most predominantly Muslim countries, with 87% in Pakistan, 67% in Jordan, and 71% in Nigeria seeing themselves as Muslims first. (Pew Global Attitudes Project. 07/06/06)

Germany had 82.4 million inhabitants in 2005, down 63,000 from 2004. Officially, 17,000 Germans left the country, while 96,000 foreigners arrived. 39.5% of Germans between the age 14 and 49 think "once in a while" of emigrating. In addition, 7.5% are "seriously thinking about it", while 1.5% really want to leave Germany. The main reasons are the economic situation, the lack of jobs, and the weather conditions. (Federal Statistical Office, 07/20/06; Forsa. Major papers, 07/05/06)

### President Bush Visit to Germany / U.S. German Relations

85% of Germans think that the Guantánamo prison violates international law. 78% believe the United States does "a bad job" when it comes to the promotion of human rights worldwide. 55% say the government should refuse landing rights to U.S. aircrafts if they transported terror suspects. (U. of Maryland. Sueddeutsche, 07/19/06)

63% of Germans consider German-American relations to be good, 31% think they are "not so good or bad". However, only 21% believe that a good relationship with the U.S. "extremely important" or "very important". 56% think it is "important", 21% "not so important or unimportant". (Infratest dimap, 07/13/06)

Asked what they think of President Bush's visit to Germany, 7% of respondents answered "it is very good", 34% that it is "good", 24% "less good", and 28% "do not like it at all". 7% were undecided. (Stern, 07/13/06)